



John O. Norquist
Mayor
Seth L. Foldy, MD
Commissioner of Health
Bevan K. Baker, CHE
Health Operations Director



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Uihlein Grant Helps Milwaukee Health Department Form Emergency Preparedness Center

Mayor Norquist, Health Commissioner Foldy and partners say center will strengthen city's public health preparedness for cases of bioterrorism

April 9, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) Commissioner Seth Foldy, with Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist and MHD partners in public health, emergency management, academic and medical organizations will announce the personal donation of \$30,000 from Lynde B. Uihlein, to be used for the ***Milwaukee Center for Emergency Public Health Preparedness***. Ms. Uihlein has pledged an additional \$30,000 for the center in December 2002. The center is comprised of existing MHD environmental and communicable disease staff members plus public health partners, and will be based from the department's downtown office location. The mission of the Center *is* to protect public health through early detection, coordinated management and definitive resolution of disease outbreaks and environmental emergencies. The donation will support systems for emergency public health communications and real-time disease surveillance, through programs including:

- **SurvNet:** a multi-jurisdictional disease reporting system, developed after the 1993 cryptosporidium outbreak, to more rapidly receive and analyze disease reports across Milwaukee County. This computerized system was used to monitor and manage the 2000 E. *Coli* 0157:H7 outbreak and received a national public health award
- **Multi-Jurisdictional Extreme Heat Plan:** local emergency response, hospitals and other partners formed a Heat Task Force to reduce deaths from heat waves. The plan, coordinated by MHD, has been associated with a reduction in deaths

- **Internet-based communications with emergency medical services:** MHD uses the **EMSystem** website to alert emergency professionals of public health problems and to monitor emergency healthcare capacity

“The ability to quickly detect clues and communicate public health information, related to a terrorist act, or other emergencies will be the first priority for the Center’s activities,” said Commissioner Foldy.

In addition, the department’s model for emergency communications was selected for the coveted Management Innovations session at the American College of Healthcare Executives 2002 Conference, an unusual venue for public health. This model has received interest from several outside organizations, including New York’s emergency medical organizations affiliated with rescue efforts after September 11, 2001. Interest was so intense that ACHE is placing the presentation on its website.

For more information, please contact:

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Grant Awarded for the Milwaukee Center for Emergency Preparedness

AGENDA

*Opening Remarks
and Announcement:*

**Commissioner Seth Foldy, M.D.
Milwaukee Health Department**

Remarks:

**Mayor John Norquist
Milwaukee**

**Ron Pirallo, M.D.
Medical County EMS/MCW Emergency
Medicine**

**Carl Stenbol and Midge Casperson
Milwaukee County Emergency Mgt.**

**Deputy Chief Gloria Murawski
Milwaukee Fire Department, EMS**

**Alderman Tom Nardelli (invited)
Milwaukee; Public Safety Chair**

***For more information, contact:
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